



**TMN-COT BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, April 2, 2014 10am-11:30am**  
**Sea Center Texas**  
**Lake Jackson, Texas**

**Vice President Peggy Romfh** called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

**Attending Elected Members of the Board:** Ed Barrios (State Representative), Jerry Eppner (Membership Co-coordinator), Gerald Forrest (Treasurer), Becky McClendon (Secretary) and Peggy Romfh (Vice-president).

**Absent Elected Members of the Board:** Mike Mullins (President), and Roy Morgan (Training Co-coordinator).

**Attending Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board:** Barbara Burkhardt (Past President), Chris Kneupper (Representative of the 2013 Intern Class), Jerry Krampota (Chapter Host), Ruby Lewis (Outreach Chair), Connie Stolte (Chapter Advisor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.), and Pete Romfh (Volunteer Service Manager).

**Absent Advisors and Appointed Members of the Board:** Mary Holler (LEEP Coordinator), Tom Morris (Advanced Training Manager), John O'Connell, (Chapter Advisor, AgriLIFE® Extension Agent), Dick Schaffhausen (Representative of the 2013 Intern Class), Neal McLain (Webmaster),

**Quorum:** 10/14 of the Elected and Committee Chair Members were present; thus a quorum was reached.

**Minutes:**

**Secretary Becky McClendon** presented the draft of the minutes from the March General Meeting, as revised by email comments. Barbara Burkhardt moved to accept the minutes as revised. Ed Barrios seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Becky presented the draft of the minutes from the March Board Meeting, as revised by email comments. Pete Romfh motioned to approve the minutes as so revised. This motion was seconded by Gerald Forrest. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Treasurer Gerald Forrest's** report was from 3/1/14 thru 3/31/14. The beginning balance was \$8,111.59. The ending balance was \$7,333.71.

Revenue Summary included:

Dues payments	100.00
Interest	1.62



Total Revenues for March were	101.62
Expense Summary included:	
Intern Curriculum Refund	38.17
Presidents Award Cake	49.99
Intern Material Expenses	791.44
Total Expenses for March were	879.50

Peggy suggested that members needing expenses should look at past expenses and have a “target” budget by September 1, 2014, for input on yearly budget. After some discussion, it was decided that those members with expenses include:

- Jerry Krampota and Barbara Burkhardt – host expenses
- Peggy Romfh – speaker expenses
- Ruby Lewis – outreach expenses
- Roy Morgan – intern training expenses beyond intern dues
- Neal McLain – website expenses

\*Action Item for above listed members with target budgets due September 1, 2014.

#### **Membership:**

**Membership Chair Jerry Eppner** reported 1,293 volunteer hours recorded to date. After the April General Meeting, dues are delinquent. Delinquent members cannot vote. Due to misspellings of intern members’ names, Jerry will reissue the roster.

\*Action Item for Jerry to correct and reissue TMN-COT Roster.

#### **Training:**

There was no report. Roy Morgan was absent.

#### **Advanced Training:**

There was no report. Tom Morris was absent.

#### **Webmaster Report:**

**Peggy Romfh reported for Webmaster, Neal McLain**, in his absence.

- TMN-COT Library now has a librarian, Barbara Bruyere. Barbara will serve as both Master Gardner / Master Naturalist librarian. Books are stored in an office at the AgriLIFE building. Bibliographic info on donated books will be available on the website in the future. Donating our books to the public library system was discussed. Donated books are sold to the public and not catalogued for public check-out. Storing the books at AgriLIFE building for member check-out was deemed the better option.
- Andy Smith is no longer taking care of the calendar.
- Dick Schaffhausen is doing a good job on our Facebook page.

Peggy reported on the Photo Gallery as well. In March there were over 5,000 views and 670 identified species.



In April, Pauline Tom will be the speaker at the General Meeting, Bill Ostrand will speak in June on Ecological Theory. The topic in July is Crawdads.

#### **Outreach:**

**Ruby Lewis, Outreach Co-coordinator**, reported that in March, TMN-COT members were involved in:

- Brazoria Heritage Day – in Brazoria March 1, 2014 – 9 volunteers talked with 300 members of the public (200 youth, 100 adults).
- Migration Celebration Outreach – at Brazos Mall March 22, 2014 – 3 volunteers promoted MC. Public attendance was 500 (330 youth, 170 adults).
- Nature Night at the Library – at the Angleton Branch Library March 24, 2014 – 2 volunteers reaching 13 members of the public (2 youth, 11 adults)
- Migration Celebration Outreach – at Brazos Mall March 29, 2014 – 3 volunteers informed 500 members of the public (300 youth, 200 adults).

Upcoming events include the following:

- April 4, 2014 – Fundraising Dinner for Migration Celebration
- April 12 & 13 – Migration Celebration 2014
- May 3, 2014 – Reception for Migration Celebration Photo Contest Exhibit (Art League)
- May 17, 2014 – Backyard Basics Expo (Resoft County Park Alvin)
- May 17 and May 24, 2014 – Freeport Historical Society (Ruby will check on these dates.)

**Chapter Host, Jerry Krampota**, has concerns that there are not enough people preparing gumbo for the May General Meeting. Gumbo preparers need to bring their own ladles. Marty is preparing the rice. Other members volunteered to bring bread, crackers, and desserts.

#### **Volunteer Updates:**

**Pete Romfh, Volunteer Service Manager**, reported that he would get with Mike Mullins to obtain signature for VPAR.

**\*Action Item for Pete.**

**Past President, Barbara Burkhardt**, reported on the following:

- Jane Eppner is assisting Barbara in preparing the display case. The plaques have been ordered by Connie Stolte. The length of time before the plaques arrive is not known.
- Barbara has been meeting with Tom Schneider about Junior Naturalist Program. Tom would like to work with TMN-COT members to provide the Junior Program with activities that reach into the summer months and include former junior naturalists. After much discussion, it was decided that Barbara needed to talk further with Tom.

**\*Action Item for Barbara to communicate with Tom about the Junior Naturalist Program for specific needs.**

#### **PPH Updates:**

**State Representative, Ed Barrios**, reported the following:



- PPH updates had been completed.
- Urban Initiative After-School Program has been cancelled for this year.
- Migration Celebration volunteers are still needed for kayaking and instructional walks. Someone is needed to operate the projecting microscope.

\*Action Item to send updated By Laws to members for review.

**Action Items** were presented by Peggy Romfh for a review, as shown below, and updated to reflect the current status of outstanding items. New action items are included on this table.

<b>Cradle of Texas Board Action Register March 2014</b>				
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Due Date?</b>	<b>Complete/P ending</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Draft a Records Retention Guideline for our P&P	Ed Barrios	7-Aug-13	Done	2/5/2014 : Ed to add to appendix 3/5/2014: see discussion
Create 5000 hour and emeritus plaque(s) to hang in AgriLIFE building.	TBD	TBD	Done	Connie Stolte has ordered plaques
Amend the COT Bylaws to add the new 4,000 hour VT recognition level and the new protocol for instituting the President's Call to Service award.	Ed Barrios	TBD	Done	Changes made
Amend appendix to reflect new dues schedule	Ed Barrios	TBD	Done	
Discuss with Connie Stolte the possibility of Sea Center Texas paying for these plaques.	Mike Mullins	TBD	Done	Connie will pay for plaques. All plaques have been ordered.
Apply to TPWD for a grant to support San Bernard Wildlife Refuge	Ed Barrios	TBD	Pending	
PPH revise treasurer's job with yearly budget	Ed Barrios	TBD	Done	
Send out amended By Laws for review	Ed Barrios	TBD	Pending	
Target budget for members	Jerry Krampota,	September 1, 2014	Pending	



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	Peggy Romfh, Ruby Lewis, Roy Morgan, Neal McLain			
Junior Naturalist Program volunteer needs	Barbara Burkhardt	May 2, 2014	Pending	Barbara will talk with Tom Schneider
Signature needed for VPAR with Library	Pete Romfh, Mike Mullins	TBD	Done	Given to Lana Lewis
Reissue corrected roster	Jerry Eppner	TBD	Pending	

**Vice President, Peggy Romfh**, adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.

Submitted by Becky McClendon,  
 Secretary, Texas Master Naturalist, Cradle of Texas Chapter



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Date	2-Jan	5-Feb	5-March	2-Apr.									Attendance
<b>Board Members</b>													
Barrios, Ed	1	1	1	1									4
Burkhardt, Barbara	1	1	1	1									4
McClendon, Becky	1		1	1									3
Eppner, Jerry	1	1	1	1									4
Morgan, Roy	1												1
Forrest, Gerald	1	1	1	1									4
Mullins, Mike	1	1	1										3
Romfh, Peggy	1		1	1									3
Quorum	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
<b>Sponsors</b>													
O'Connell, John	0	1	1										2
Stolte, Connie	1	1		1									3
<b>Committee Chairs</b>													
Romfh, Pete	1		1	1									3
Krampota, Jerry	1	1	1	1									4
Lewis, Ruby	1	1		1									3
McLain, Neal	1	1	1										3
Morris, Tom	1	1											2
<b>Intern Representatives</b>													
Kneupper, Chris	1	1	1	1									4
Schaffhausen, Dick	1	1	1										3
													0
													0
													0
													0